

hollow cylindrical flow control wall 43.” Truong simply does not show “a bottom with a plurality of openings passing therethrough.”

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 16 distinguishes over and is patentable over Truong. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 16 as being anticipated by Truong be withdrawn.

In paragraph 5, claims 1-10, 17 and 18 stand rejected as being obvious over Truong in view of Hsu. Paragraph 5 acknowledges that Truong “does not show a powered valve connected to the openings.” Paragraph 5 also states that “It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added a powered solenoid valves like the ones shown by Hsu to the device of Truong so as to be able to control the flow and the use of the device in an automatic manner.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Hsu discloses a washing machine for washing vehicles. As explained at, among other places, col. 1, lines 13-14, the separate valves are used to enable the apparatus to allow “clean water and/or the cleaning solution to pass to an automatic nozzle for washing.” The separate powered valves are needed in Hsu so that the spray nozzle 32 may be supplied with either cleaning solution or with clean water. There is no teaching or suggestion in Truong to deliver either clean water or treated water, so there would be no need for two powered valves as disclosed in Hsu. Flow control to the device of Truong is simply controlled by opening a water supply line to the water sprinkler system. Also, adding one powered valve upstream of the dispenser and one powered valve downstream of the dispenser would not enable Truong to alternate between dispensing either clean water or treated water as the vehicle washing device of Hsu. Further teaching against the use of two separate powered valves, at col. 4, lines 38-40, Truong explains that “the user may install the inventing applicators at equal distances along their sprinkler pipelines.” There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Truong that one should add any powered valves to the device, much less one upstream and one downstream. Further still, it would require very clear teaching in Truong before one of ordinary skill in the art would take the otherwise undesirable step of running power lines

and installing separate sets of powered valves at a number of dispensers disposed "at equal distances" along a sprinkler system.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 distinguishes over and is patentable over Truong in light of Hsu. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 as being obvious over Truong in light of Hsu be withdrawn. Claims 2-10 depend from and contain all limitations of claim 1, so it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-10 distinguish over and are patentable over Truong in light of Hsu, for the same reasons as claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-10 as being obvious over Truong in light of Hsu be withdrawn.

Claim 16 distinguishes over Truong for the reasons described above. Hsu is relied upon for disclosing powered valves 11 and 14 and not for disclosing "a bottom with a plurality of openings passing therethrough and having a side with a plurality of openings passing therethrough . . ." It is therefore submitted that claim 16 distinguishes over Truong in light of Hsu for the same reasons discussed above in connection with claim 16. Claims 17 and 18 both depend from and contain all limitations of claim 16, so it is respectfully submitted that claims 17 and 18 distinguish over and are patentable over Truong in light of Hsu for the same reasons as claim 16. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 17 and 18 as being obvious over Truong in light of Hsu be withdrawn.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 and 16-18 distinguish over and are patentable over the references of record. Formal notice thereof is respectfully requested. If the Examiner deems that anything else is required to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5-13-02

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on the following date: 5-13-02.

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